



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

6 March 1984

Prime Minister :

Dear Gus

ms

To note the Annex, which sets out the final version of the legislative programme

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1984-85

As you know, Cabinet approved the proposals put to them by the Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee, subject to a few changes. I thought it would be useful to set out precisely the present position and I accordingly attach a list of the Bills in the programme as approved by Cabinet. I am writing separately to Norman Tebbit and Nicholas Ridley about the two square bracketed items.

I am very grateful to you for the speedy way in which your own Bills are now coming forward for policy clearance. I hope that our colleagues will prove equally assiduous. Our original recommendations were going to present enough difficulties, and the net addition of one major Bill makes it even more important to have as many major Bills as possible ready for the start of the Session. A key factor in a successful programme is a solid fortnight of Second Readings immediately after the Queen's Speech debate.

I cannot overemphasise the need to take a realistic view in looking at timetables. All Bills have to be drafted by the limited number of Parliamentary draftsmen available and Ministers in charge of Bills cannot assume that a draftsman will always be free to start work on their Bill immediately Instructions arrive. Similarly there are many examples of initial consideration by Parliamentary Counsel revealing flaws in the policy of the Bill with consequent delay while these are sorted out.

All this points to the need, which John Biffen and I have emphasised before, to ensure policy clearance at the earliest possible date, to exercise vigorous self-restraint about adding to the content of a Bill and to ensure that Departments devote adequate resources to preparation. We shall be keeping a close eye on progress but it is vital that all Ministers responsible for Bills do the same.

The Rt Hon The Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone CH

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There is one further point I should like to make. In the past, the Leader of the House of Commons has given drafting authority for non-Scottish Bills on an individual basis. John Biffen has concluded that this is not necessary for Bills with a place in the programme and for which policy approval has been given. He has therefore asked me to say that in future colleagues may assume drafting authority and send instructions to Parliamentary Counsel as and when they are ready, provided that policy approval has been given by the appropriate Cabinet committee and the topic is included in the contents of the Bill as agreed by Cabinet. Requests for drafting authority for other Bills, or for any additions to approved Bills, should continue to be made to him in the usual way.

I am sending copies of this letter to other members of QL, to all Ministers in charge of Departments, to Sir George Engle and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Biffen

Essential

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Corporal Punishment in Schools
(England and Wales) | 2. New Towns and Urban Development
Corporations |
| 3. Mineral Workings | 4. Civil Aviation |
| 5. Fluoridation | |

Programme

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6. Pollution (Protection of Food and
the Marine Environment) | 12a. Gas |
| 19. Brunei | 14. Local Government (Greater London
and Metropolitan Counties) |
| 22. Representation of the People | 21. Social Security and Health |
| 30. Administration of Justice | 23. Prosecutions |
| 34. Heritage Scotland | 32. Elections (Northern Ireland) |
| 37. Law Reform (Miscellaneous
Provisions) (Scotland) | 35. Family Law (Financial Provisions)
(Scotland) |
| 39. Bankruptcy (Scotland) | 38. Insolvency <i>(to be called
"Protection of Creditors"
(believe))</i> |
| 41. Films | 49. Public Transport |
| 52. Nationalised Industries | |

Uncontroversial

- | | |
|--|--|
| 8. Further Education Establishments
(Commercial Activities) | 54. Opencast Coal (Planning) |
| 18. State Immunity Act (Amendment) | 55. Foreign Compensation |
| 56. Enduring Power of Attorney | 57. Land Registry and Law of Property
(Amendment) |
| 58. Child Custody Orders
(International Enforcement) | 58a. Insurance |
| 50. Merchant Shipping | 60. English Industrial Estates
Corporations |

Contingent

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 53. Public Service (Transfer of
Functions) | 62. Insolvency Payments |
| 63. Local Government Commission | 64. Australia |
| 65. Territorial Sea | 66. Communications |
| 68. Export Guarantees | 69. Shipbuilding Redundancy Payment |
| 70. Imports, Export and Customs Powers
Défence Act (Amendment) | 71. Doorstep Selling |

LECDP



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC
Lord President of the Council
Privy Council Office
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AT

24 April 1984

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME 1984/85

Your letter of 6 March to the Lord Chancellor discussed the procedure for policy clearance and drafting authority for Bills approved by Cabinet and included in the 1984/85 Programme.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your agreement and that of the Leader of the Commons to drafting authority for an addition to the Pollution (Protection of Food and the Marine Environment) Bill, which would enable the Government to make regulations controlling the use of pesticides.

The background is that the present non-statutory arrangements for controlling pesticides are in imminent danger of breaking down following legal challenge by the European Commission. Lengthy discussion between my Department and the Commission has failed to produce a solution in Brussels, and on 12 April I proposed to OD(E) that the Government should now make regulations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, perhaps supplemented by regulations under the Consumer Safety Act 1978. This proposal met with strong resistance. I need not repeat the arguments since they are fully set out in the OD(E) minutes. However, OD(E) concluded that both the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Consumer Safety Act were too narrow in scope for the purpose intended and that the best way forward would be to extend the scope of the proposed Pollution (Protection of Food and the Marine Environment) Bill to afford the powers necessary for comprehensive control of the marketing and use of pesticides and the introduction of appropriate regulations at an early date. This course had the strong endorsement of the sub-committee and I was therefore invited to seek your agreement to it.

/I should ...

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legislative programme

I should add that the conclusion was subject to an urgent re-examination by officials of the strength of the European Commission's legal position, and assumed that no early accommodation with the Commission was possible. I think it is fair to say however that OD(E) regarded this legal re-examination as a matter of making quite sure that the problem could not be dealt with except by legislative action at home, and not as something likely to reveal an alternative policy option. I therefore felt I should write to you without delay.

I have also asked my officials to consider urgently how much addition to the Pollution Bill would be needed. It is too soon to be sure about that but in essence what would be wanted would be a general power to make regulations requiring approval by Ministers of pesticides in the UK and enabling them to impose conditions on that approval. This does not seem likely to demand more than three additional clauses.

I have no doubt at all - and on this there was no disagreement at OD(E) - that action must be taken quickly to ensure that there is no loss of public confidence in the protection afforded to the public and the environment by the pesticide controls. I therefore hope that you and the Leader of the House will agree to the proposed widening of the scope of the Pollution Bill and I will of course then ensure that the necessary instructions to Parliamentary Counsel are drafted without delay.

I am copying this letter to members of OD(E), John Biffen, John Wakeham and Sir Robert Armstrong.

James Evans
Michael

MICHAEL JOPLING



24 NOV 1984



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

TELEPHONE 01-218 9000
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MO 21/1

17th April 1984

See below

Thank you for your letter of 4th April about Bills for the 1985/86 legislative programme.

Apart from the quinquennial Armed Forces Bill, which will feature in the list of essential Bills for the 1985/86 session, the only MOD legislation which I foresee we might wish to introduce is a Bill which might be necessary to deal with certain aspects of the possible change in status of the Royal Dockyards which I am currently considering.

I will be writing to colleagues shortly about the policy issues involved but, should legislation prove to be necessary, the timescale for reaching final decisions may make it difficult to adhere to your request for Instructions to Counsel by January 1985. At this stage therefore I do not have a firm candidate for one of the two places approved by Cabinet, but I may bid for a place in the main exercise later in the year.

I am sending copies of this letter to Ministers in charge of Departments, other members of QL and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

you are

Michael Heseltine

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw CH MC

Parliament: Legislation
Pt 12

24 APR 1984



GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

COMMONS PRIMARY

<u>i. Second Reading Committee</u>	<u>Date of Committee</u>
Inshore Fishing (Scotland)(Lords) / Scottish Grand /	29 March +
<u>ii. Awaiting Second Reading on the Floor</u>	
Education (Amendment) (Scotland) (Lords)	
Animal Health and Welfare (Lords)	
Cable and Broadcasting (Lords)	
Mental Health (Scotland) (Lords)	
Consolidation	
Finance (No.2)	
<u>iii. Standing Committee</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
Ordnance Factories and Military Services	26 January
Data Protection	26 January
Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (Lords)(Special procedure completed)	5 April
Agricultural Holdings	29 March
<u>iv. Awaiting Committee on the Floor</u>	
<u>v. Awaiting Report and Third Reading</u>	
Trade Union	2 April (progress)
Health and Social	
Somerset House (Lords)	
Foreign Limitation Periods (Lords)	
Fosdyke Bridge (Lords) (Hybridity procedure completed)	
Police and Criminal Evidence	
London Regional Transport	4,5, and 9 April
<u>vi. Consideration of Lords Amendments</u>	
Telecommunications	9 April

ii. NEGATIVE

Annulment

EDM	TITLE	Party praying	Expiry of praying time	Cttee/Floor Date for debate
516	Education (Assisted Places (Incidental Expenses) (Amendment) Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 148)	Lab/ Unoff.	31 March	
536	Electricity (Private Generating Stations and Requests by Private Generators and Suppliers) Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 136)	Lab	19 March	Committee* Wed 4 April
557	British Nationality (S.I. 1984, No. 230)	Lab	After Easter Recess	
564	National Health Service (S.I. 1984, No. 298)	Lab	"	Floor
565	National Health Service (S.I. 1984, No. 299)	Lab	"	Floor
566	National Health Service (S.I. 1984, No. 300)	Lab	"	Floor
567	Rating and Valuation (S.I. 1984, No. 221)	Con	"	
572	Local Government (Direct Labour Organisations) (Competition) (Scotland) Regulations 1984	Lib	"	Committee Wed 4 April
610	Block Grant (Education Adjustments) (England) Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 224)	Lab	"	Committee Wed 11 April
611	Local Government Superannuation (Amendment) Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 201)	Lab	"	

EDM	TITLE	Party praying	Expiry of praying time	Date for debate Ctte/Floor
616	Local Government Superannuation (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 254)	Lab	After Easter Recess	
617	National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors)(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 295)	Lab	"	
619	National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances)(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 292)	Lab	"	
620	National Health Service (Dental and Optical Charges) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 293)	Lab	"	

COMMONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

+ awaiting referral
to floor

i) Affirmative Orders

TITLE	DATE REQUIRED BY	DATE OF DEBATE FLOOR/COMMITTEE
Carriage by Air Acts (Application of Provisions)(Overseas Territories (Amendment) Order 1984		Committee Wed 28 March +
Administration of Estates (Small Payments)(Increase of Limit) Order 1984		Committee Wed 4 April
Fish Farming (Financial Assistance) Scheme 1984 (S.I. 1984, No. 341)		Committee Wed 28 March
General Practice Finance Corporation (Increase of Borrowing Powers) Order 1984		Committee Wed 4 April
Fines and Penalties (Northern Ireland) Order 1984		Floor (After Easter?)
Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Northern Ireland) Order 1984		N I Committee Wed 11 April
European Assembly Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1984		Floor Wed 4 April
European Assembly Constituencies (England) Order 1984		Floor Wed 4 April

GOVERNMENT PRIMARY LEGISLATION

1.	<u>Awaiting Royal Assent</u>	DATE
	Education (Grants and Awards)	<u>Agreed to by Lords</u>
ii.	<u>Received Royal Assent</u>	
	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
	Car Tax (Lords)	26/7/83
	Companies (Beneficial Interests)	26/7/83
	Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)	26/7/83
	Finance	26/7/83
	International Monetary Arrangements	26/7/83
	Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)	26/7/83
	Medical	26/7/83
	Value Added Tax	26/7/83
	Oil Taxation	1/12/83
	British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Powers)	21/12/83
	Coal Industry	21/12/83
	Consolidated Fund	21/12/83
	Petroleum Royalties (Relief)	21/12/83
	Consolidated Fund Act	13/3/84
	Restrictive Trade practices (Stock Exchange)	13/3/84
	Occupiers Liability	13/3/84
	Tourism (Overseas Promotion)(Scotland)	13/3/84
	Merchant Shipping	13/3/84
	Education (Amendment)(Scotland)	13/3/84
	Pensions Commutation	13/3/84
	Prevention of Terrorism	22/3/84

COMMONS (EC DOCUMENTS)

(Early debates on EC documents on the floor or in Committee)

TITLE	DOCUMENT Nos.	Debate needed by	Committee/Floor Date of debate
Community Road Haulage Quota	7933/83		Committee Tues. 3 April
Reduction in Noise from Motor Vehicles	8307/83		Committee Tues 10 April

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

COMMONS PRIMARY

<u>i.</u>	<u>Second Reading Committee</u>	<u>Date of Committee</u>
	Inshore Fishing (Scotland) (Lords) (Scottish Grand)	29 March
<u>ii.</u>	<u>Awaiting Second Reading on the Floor</u>	
	Education (Amendment) (Scotland) (Lords)	
	Animal Health and Welfare (Lords)	
	Cable and Broadcasting (Lords)	
	Mental Health (Scotland) (Lords)	
	Consolidation	
	Finance (No.2)	
<u>iii.</u>	<u>Standing Committee</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
	Police and Criminal Evidence	17 November
	London Regional Transport	17 January
	Ordnance Factories and Military Services	26 January
	Data Protection	26 January
	Matrimonial and Family Proceedings (Lords) (Special procedure	
	Somerset House (Lords) completed)	27 March
	Foreign Limitation Periods (Lords)	27 March
	Fosdyke Bridge (Lords) (Hybridity procedure completed)	29 March ?
	Agricultural Holdings	29 March
<u>iv.</u>	<u>Awaiting Committee on the Floor</u>	
<u>v.</u>	<u>Awaiting Report and Third Reading</u>	
	Trade Union	26 March/2 April
	Rates	27 March/28 March
	Health and Social Security	
	Rating and Valuation (Amendment) (Scotland)	29 March
<u>vi.</u>	<u>Consideration of Lords Amendments</u>	
	Town and Country Planning	26 March

COMMONS SECONDARY LEGISLATION

* referred

+ awaiting referral to
floor

1) Affirmative Orders laid

TITLE	DATE REQUIRED BY	DATE OF DEBATE FLOOR/COMMITTEE
Public Records (Commission for the New Towns) Order 1984		Floor
Public Records (British Railways Board) Order 1984		Wed 21 March + Committee
Carriage by Air Acts (Application of Provisions)(Overseas Territories (Amendment) Order 1984		
Housing (Percentage of Approved Expense for Repairs Grants) (Lead Plumbing Works)(Scotland) Order 1984	1/4	Committee* Wed 28 March
Mineworkers' Pension Scheme (Limit on Contributions) Order 1984	29/3	Floor
Redundant Mineworkers and Concessionary Coal (Payments Schemes) Order 1984	29/3	Floor
Administration of Estates (Small Payments)(Increase of Limit) Order 1984	reply awaited	
Fish Farming (Financial Assistance) Scheme 1984 (S.I. 1984, No.341)		Committee* Wed 28 March
General Practice Finance Corporation (Increase of Borrowing Powers) Order 1984	reply awaited	
Fines and Penalties (Northern Ireland) Order 1984		
Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1984		
European Assembly Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1984		

ii. NEGATIVE

Annulment

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536	Electricity (Private Generating Stations and Requests by Private Generators and Suppliers) Regulations 1984 (S.I. 1984, No.136)	Lab	19 March	Committee* Wed 4 April
557	British Nationality (S.I. 1984, No. 230)	Lab	After Easter Recess	
558	Rates (S.R.(N.I.) 1984, No.51)	UUP	"	Committee * Wed 28 March
564	National Health Service (S.I. 1984, No 298)	Lab	"	
565	National Health Service (S.I. 1984, No. 299)	Lab	"	
566	National Health Service (S.I. 1984, No. 300)	Lab	"	
567	Rating and Valuation (S.I. 1984, No. 221)	Con	"	
572	Local Government (Direct Labour Organisations) (Competition)(Scotland) Regulations 1984	Lib		4 April

Revocations

LORDS PRIMARY

County Courts (L)

Foster Children (Scotland) (L)

Housing and Building Control

Registered Homes (L)

Repatriation of Prisoners (L)

Roads (Scotland) (L)

Telecommunications

Tenants' Rights, Etc. (Scotland)(Amendment)

Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 26 March

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Third Readings planned for week beginning Monday 2 April

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Consideration of Commons messages

GOVERNMENT PRIMARY LEGISLATION

1. Awaiting Royal Assent

DATE

Agreed to by Lords

ii. Received Royal Assent

TITLE

DATE

Car Tax (Lords)	26/7/83
Companies (Beneficial Interests)	26/7/83
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation)	26/7/83
Finance	26/7/83
International Monetary Arrangements	26/7/83
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